

Agricultural, forest and rural policy sectors' receptiveness to agroforestry intercropping systems in Quebec (Canada)



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Context

In Quebec, issues related to agriculture, forestry, environment and rural livelihood are tackled by distinct policy sectors.

As agroforestry intercropping systems (AIS) (figure 1) may constitute an alternative land-use to address this broad range of issues, we ask this question:



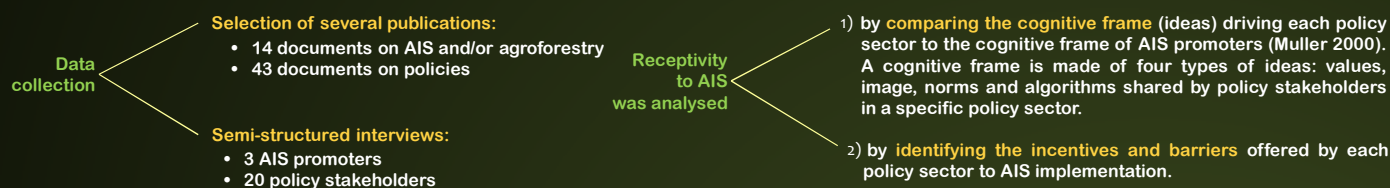
What is the receptivity of the agricultural, forestry and rural policy sectors to agroforestry intercropping systems in Quebec ?



Figure 1. Agroforestry intercropping system in Quebec, Canada.

Photo: David Rivest.

Methodology



Results

Table 1. Policy sector cognitive frames' characteristics and receptivity to agroforestry intercropping systems

	Forestry	Agriculture	Rural	Intercropping systems
Values	Economic sustainability	Economic sustainability	Multifunctionality Resilience	Sustainable systems
Image	Productive forests	Productive family farms	Multifunctional communities	Multifunctional Modern systems
Norms	Efficiency Environmental quality	Profitability Environmental quality	Economic diversification	Intercropping trees and crops
Algorithms	Intensification	Efficiency	Small innovations	System trials
Incentives	1 program (\$)	3 programs (\$\$)	3 programs (\$\$\$)	
Barriers	Subsidy programs	Subsidy programs	None found	
Receptivity	+	++	+++	

Highlights

- The rural policy sector is the most receptive to AIS followed by agriculture and forestry, which is consistent with global policy trends (Place *et al.* 2012);
- Major barriers, mainly related to subsidy program schemes, remain in agriculture and forestry sectors;
- Multifunctionality and resilience are key ideas fostering AIS public support in the rural and agricultural sectors.

This study suggests that featuring agroforestry intercropping systems as productive systems might be a necessary argument shift to tear down policy barriers and increase public support for these systems.

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